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PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Eradicate the Disease of Racism

The bosses' response to Covid-19 pandemic puts workers at risk. Capitalism is powered by profit and exploitation instead of health and safety. The severity of Cobid-19's effects is uncertain. From Italy to South Africa, one thing *is* certain: Black, Latin, Asian, and immigrant workers will suffer the most as capitalism exposes its inherent racist inequality. The working class must respond with multiracial unity!

China, then and now

During the first decades after the Chinese revolution in 1949, a number of deadly health conditions, were defeated by politically mobilizing millions of workers under communist principles. Those workers eradicated the "diseases of capitalism" like schistosomiasis and syphilis. But the days of a society striving for social and economic equality are long gone.

Now, like the U.S., billionaire imperialists run China. They have an iron-fisted control over the little bosses and the workers. With Covid-19, the Chinese bosses instituted the largest lockdown in human history. They lined the streets with soldiers and police to enforce the quarantine—great practice for fascism in the future.

Italy, another open-air prison

All of Italy is under conditions that are unprecedented during "peacetime." Uniformed police and soldiers are set up at checkpoints, requiring workers to fill out an official report and reason for movement. Lying on the forms is a crime. Workers are subject to fines and jail time if they refuse to comply. Placing such unquestioned trust in a capitalist system is both dangerous and anti-working class. These are the steps towards fascism.

Fight the disease of Anti-Asian racism

Universities and news media, agents of disinformation for the ruling class, are seizing the opportunity to infect workers with anti-Chinese racism. The upsurge of anti-Asian racism is reminiscent of attacks on Muslim workers following 9/11.

Anti-Asian racism in the U.S. has historically been a tool of division and war. When Chinese migrants were recruited to build the railroads and mine for gold in the late 1800s, they were superexploited and scapegoated. In the Chinese Massacre of 1871 in Los Angeles, a mob mutilated and lynched 18 men and boys, 10 percent of the city's Chinese immigrant population (Los Angeles Public Library). During World War II, the U.S. funneled more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry into concentration camps.

Workers and youth must fight for multiracial unity in the face of racist ideas wherever they appear.

U.S. bosses' response

In the U.S., president Donald Trump seizes on this pandemic to build racism and enforce even stricter control of the borders, blaming the spread on undocumented workers. Given Trump's racist unleashing of the Immigration

> Coronavirus, aka Covid-19, is a new virus that has become a pandemic spreading across the world.
>
> Covid-19 most commonly causes cough and fever. Many cases are mild but it can also lead to serious pneumonia which causes shortness of breath and can lead to death. Adults over 60 are at most risk. Children seem to have less severe illness.
>
> There is no treatment or vaccine yet.
>
> It is important to practice good infection control measures and avoid crowded places.
>
> More importantly, we should take care of each other, make sure our elders, neighbors, and friends have what they need.
>
> Even more important, respond to this crisis with antiracist organizing.

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and Customs Enforcement (ICE), undocumented workers will be prevented from accessing healthcare, putting them and everyone at risk.

At The same time he is promoting racism, Trump is also trying to downplay the seriousness to keep business running as usual in order to avoid another recession.

Meanwhile the main imperialist wing of the bosses is trying to exploit this pandemic to get elected while we still suffer from the inadequacy of Obamacare.

Virus exposes & exacerbates racist inequality

Long before this virus, capitalist inequality caused the death and disability of the international working class. Tens of thousands of workers are being set up for sickness or death because of the racism.

Healthcare for workers is minimal to poor to non-existent. Hospital shutdowns in the last 20 years mean fewer beds to take care of the incoming large numbers of patients. Public health officials estimate that 12 million workers in the U.S. have a disease linked to extreme poverty. Quite simply, inequality and racism are instrumental in cultivating the conditions that allow the spread of disease. Poor access to and inferior for-profit healthcare, shoddy housing conditions, inferior wages and benefits, all conspire to put workers, and especially Black and Latin families, at risk.

How the coronavirus is handled is an illustration of capitalism's racist inequality. The lack of paid sick leave means that workers will be forced to work when they are sick, causing the spread of the virus. The lack of free, guaranteed healthcare means that workers will not seek help until they are very ill. Those who survive will be facing thousands of dollars of medical debt. These brutal policies for the U.S. working class mean more will get sick and more will die.

An official or de-facto quarantine poses a further economic burden on the millions of families of working-class families who simply cannot afford not to work and it further illustrates the pervasive inequities and disparities that workers are beaten down with in every aspect of life under capitalism.

Workers need communism

Capitalism *cannot* protect the working class from disease and inequality. All over the world, worker need a society run by the workers for the health and wellbeing of all, instead of for the profits and power of a few. Only a real communist society, run by the working class and Progressive Labor Party, would have a hope of humanely containing a viral pandemic such as Covid-19 and ensuring that the greatest number of workers survive. The only motivation would be necessity and collectivity, not profit and power to exploit. The international working class needs to build a world based on global planning predicated on science to protect all our families, as well as the environment and planet that sustains us, for us to survive and flourish.

Getting rid of capitalism is a matter of life or death! Join the PLP and fight for workers' power!✪